

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph at p. 12, lines 21-32 as follows:

An example of such a language is the “snort” rule language, that is the language employed to specify detection signatures for the well known open source network intrusion detection system. As is well known, “snort” is the de facto standard for the network ~~ids (see e.g.,~~ ~~www.snort.org)~~ IDS. Signatures may specify tests such as comparison of specific header fields of the network packet against a value, search for a predetermined sequence of bytes in the packet payload, as well as stateful tests, that is tests that require memory of specific features of the data flow previous to the packet currently being matched.